

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 210

By Smith

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Coach Anthony Samuel Martino.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of longtime Hixson High School teacher, coach, and athletic director Anthony Samuel Martino; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pittston, Pennsylvania, Anthony Martino travelled south to play football for A.C. "Scrappy" Moore at the University of Chattanooga (UC); and

WHEREAS, the undersized lineman earned both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree from UC in Secondary and Physical Education and also accomplished the worthy goal of meeting and marrying the love of his life, Billie Jean; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1952, Coach Martino began his illustrious forty-two-year career at Hixson High School as a health, science, and physical education teacher and the only assistant football coach, working with the offensive and defensive lines; and

WHEREAS, his first opportunity to serve as a head coach came in 1962, when he assumed the mantle of leadership for the boys' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, admired and respected as a hard-nosed coach who inspired his athletes to reach for and attain the highest goals, Coach Martino won five Hamilton County Interscholastic League (HCIL) championships during his seven years at the helm, and his 1963-1964 team finished with a remarkable record of 23-2; and

WHEREAS, a two-time Coach of the Year, Anthony Martino led the Hixson boys' basketball team to several firsts, including its first game versus an historically Black high school and its first game playing in Hixson's new round gym; and

WHEREAS, Coach Martino returned to his first love of football in 1968, when he became Hixson's head football coach; he led his charges to an HCIL championship and was named Coach of the Year during his eight-year tenure on the gridiron; his best team finished 8-3, including a victory in the Tullahoma Lions Bowl; and

WHEREAS, his massive list of accomplishments extends far beyond football and basketball; he coached top-five athletes in both boys' and girls' track, specializing in the shot put and the discus, co-founded the girls' track team, and served as the assistant coach for conditioning with the wrestling team; and

WHEREAS, Coach Martino was twice named Cross Country Coach of the Year, and one of his teams finished second in the State meet, perhaps his greatest accomplishment as a coach; and

WHEREAS, he was also Hixson's athletic director for thirty-two years before retiring in 1994, having served during ten U.S. presidencies and the transformation of Hixson from a small rural county high school into a large suburban one; and

WHEREAS, as athletic director, Coach Martino was instrumental in fundraising for a new Hixson football facility and even performed physical labor himself in helping build Hixson Community Stadium, which opened in 1977; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2006, the stadium was officially named Anthony Martino Field in honor of an educator and coach who served as an inspiring role model for Hixson's student athletes for more than forty years; and

WHEREAS, Coach Martino received the Walt Laur Award in 2007, when he was inducted into the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Martino expressed his faith as a member of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional gentleman is survived by his loving wife of seventy years, Billie Jean Martino; son, Tony (Donna) Martino; daughter, JoEllen (Gary) Collier; grandsons, Anthony (Rachelle) Martino and Joseph (Marissa) Martino; granddaughters, Emily C. (Russell) Shelton and Amber C. (Jake) Reagan; and great-grandchildren, Chase and Courtlyn Martino, Braxtyn Martino, and Breleigh Buckles; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Martino was instrumental in the growth of Hixson High School in both academic and athletic terms, and he shall be fondly remembered for his many accomplishments on the field of play and in the game of life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Coach Anthony Samuel Martino of Hixson High School and extend our sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.